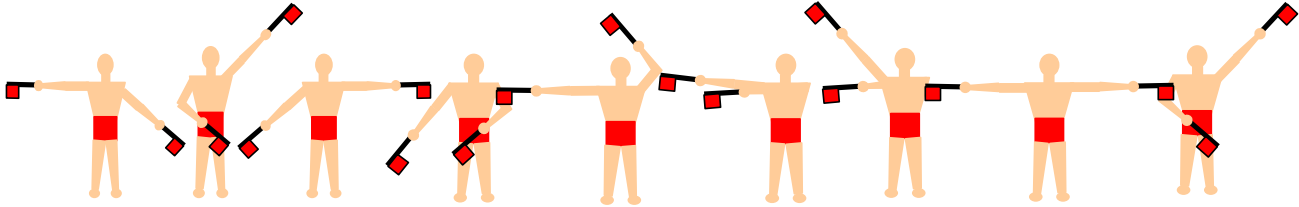


Ocean City Beach Patrol



Edition 75

Newsletter

Spring 2023



**Over Eighty-five
Years of Saving
Lives**

**Maintain Your Role
in this Fantastic
Tradition!**

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SRT Andy Friedman Rookie Graduation 2022. See Surf Rescue Ninja story on pg. 18

Message From the Captain

These are Challenging Times

Although many of us have different challenges we face as we go through life, I am referring to the Beach Patrol's challenge of filling our Surf Rescue Technician positions for this coming season. I can attest to the fact that in my 50 years with the patrol that this is the most difficulty that we have ever experienced with recruiting and filling all our needed positions. I believe, and my belief is supported by data from all facets of the employment market, that this is not just an Ocean City Beach Patrol issue but exists across all types of demographics and geographic locations. However, there are several factors that are unique to our hiring issues.

- Three years of Covid related fallout, such as generally poorer physical conditioning, a lack of desire to work and less motivation to report to a worksite (telework dependence).
- Ocean City's seasonal rental housing crisis, with 100's less units available due to either demolition or a switch to use as an Air B&B.
- The higher cost of living compared to the earning potential in Ocean City.

Although we recognize these factors, we cannot just accept them and hope that someone else will fix the problem, because we need to hire enough SRTs to protect the beaches in Ocean City.

We talk a lot about recruiting, which is simply letting people know how to get a position with the Ocean City Beach Patrol, but once they are aware then the rest is up to them. However, I have said for several years that I think retention is far more important than recruiting new personnel. The main reason I take that position is that we need experienced staff to help bring our newest rookies along and we already have quite an investment in

SRTs who have worked for us before. There is also a financial benefit to the Town to concentrate on returning employees, it costs \$1,493.50 to get a rookie on a stand, compared to a veteran SRT which costs \$270.90 to return and this does not include any costs for recruiting or testing.

- The "Fast Track Back" program allows employees who only missed a single season to return without having to complete the full PEPSE or SRA and to serve on the beach which helps both the SRT and the budget.
- To encourage employees to return for another season the Town has re-established a step increase in pay for eligible employees, as well as an overall pay increase for all positions.

These challenges did not come as a surprise, and we have been attempting to deal with some of the factors affecting our recruiting and hiring for many years. But during this past year we have increased our efforts far more than at any other time. The biggest enhancement came in the establishment of a recruiting "workgroup" under the direction of Lt Kovacs, who is the director of recruiting. Many of the ideas that they brought to the group from you saw incorporation into the 2023 recruiting plan. One item they felt particularly important was the personal contact with everyone who pre-registers for a PEPSE. To bring this part of the plan to execution we provided the Recruiting Team contact information for each individual who has registered for one of the PEPSEs. Since one of the issues that we have dealt with for many years (although it has gotten worse) is that

(Continued on page 2)



(Challenging Times continued from page 1)

only about 50% of registered participants actually show up for the testing. Our hope is that with personal contact many more will actually show up.

We have tripled the number of recruiting venues and Job fairs, adding locations that we were unable to use in the past. On several dates we had recruiters at multiple locations at the same time. What made this possible were our people suggesting events and then doing the legwork to get the necessary permissions. These locations were also heavily advertised using our enhanced social media platforms, updated posters, and current employee photos. Following is a list of some of the recruiting opportunities we have added this year as well as ones we have been doing for years:

Showell Elementary Fall Festival - Patrick Reid and Sarah Reid

SHAPE Maryland Conference - Brent, Tim, Skip and Nick Thompson arranged the opportunity

Town of Ocean City Job Fair - Katie Greiser, Ryan Burroughs and Luke Ramina

IAAM Swim Championships-Loyola College – Kristy Sulin, Summer Sulin (new PSRT), Paul Vassalotti, Graeceann DiPeso and Caroline Hennick

Harford County swim meets - Rick Krause

Montgomery County Events - Brent Weingard and Bryan Clark

MD High School Swim Championships- College Park - Tim Uebel, Ward Kovacs, Zachary Newman, Everette Brown and Julie Rosenberg

Bethany/Fenwick Job Fair - Katie Greiser, Ryan Burroughs and Luke Ramina

Jr. Achievement Job Fair -Salisbury - Ward Kovacs and Luke Ramina

College Park Recruiting Event - Zachary Newman and Luke Ramina

Ocean Pines Job Fair - Harrison Duncan, Skip Lee and Katie Greiser

Salisbury University Job Fair - Ward Kovacs

Salisbury Commons recruiting table - Ward Kovacs, Connor Lawrence and Sarah Reid

One challenge we face when doing job fairs or recruiting events is getting current OCBP staff to assist us. After all, those of us who are part of the officer group are **NOT** the face of the Beach Patrol, when most of our recruits are between 18 and 22, therefore we need you or at least your face. We specifically left additional employees on the payroll so that they were available to assist and get paid during the “off-season”.

Because we know that you are our best recruiters, we began the “Recruiting Bounty” at the beginning of last summer and that \$500 award is still available for this season. The intent was for you to let anyone who you feel could do the job of SRT, know about the job. But it doesn’t end there, you will make sure they sign up to test, help them prepare for testing, help them prepare and be successful

during SRA and, finally, help them complete probation (practice semaphore). For each person that you help through the process, you will receive the \$500 bounty once they complete probation. Currently Rosalie Garneau has 6 people that she recruited signed up to test, which if you do the math may result in \$3,000 in recruiting bounties. Not only is she helping the patrol and herself, but most importantly she is giving these 6 individuals the best adventure of their lives. As a result of one of the Canadians who passed on March 5th, she recruited a friend who passed at York. That friend was so motivated that she took two flights to get to DC, a bus to York, rented an Air-B&B for two nights used an UBER to arrive for the PEPSE and then did it all again to return to Quebec. Now, that is motivation and commitment!

The Town has also approved a \$250.00 signing bonus for any SRT who did not work for the patrol in the previous season as well as a \$250.00 Rental Housing Stipend for any qualified Beach Patrol employee. The “Rental Housing Stipend” is provided to offset the rise in cost of obtaining seasonal rental housing for those employees who must relocate to work in Ocean City. For the first time ever the Beach Patrol has tried a new approach by renting an apartment that sleeps four and will sublet it to our staff that need housing.

We introduced our newest recruiting initiative at the Salisbury PEPSE on March 5, 2023 and it was so well received that several current employees asked to be included. That new approach is a “Recruiting Kit” for everyone who passes the test. The “Recruiting Kit” contains a full-size poster, recruiting flyers, rack cards and a \$500 Recruiting Bounty certificate as well as a recruiting uniform. The grey Beach Patrol recruiting uniform shirt is very popular and most candidates put it on as soon as I handed it to them. One successful candidate made the

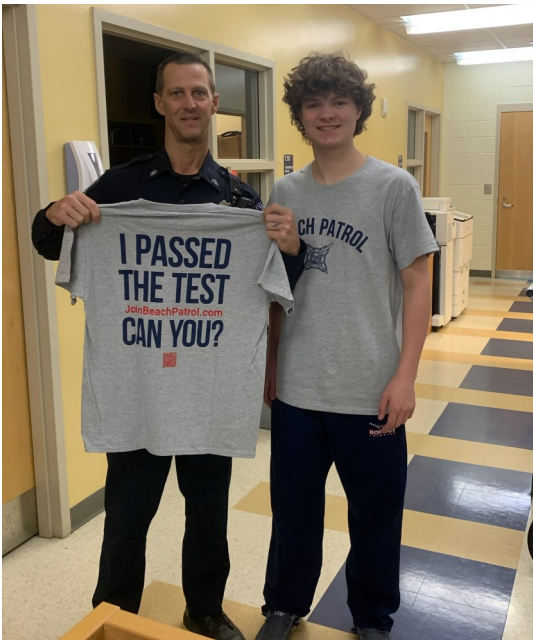


comment, "Once I saw the shirt, I knew I wanted to pass and get it".

However, all the recruiting efforts that we try are not nearly as effective as what **"YOU"** can do. We have collected data from everyone who actually attends a PEPSE and have data that confirms that 98% of all successful candidates know or knew someone who has worked with the patrol. This fact is what prompted us to offer the \$500.00 "Recruiting Bounty" for each person who you personally recruit.

Also remember that having a full staff allows us to use you for special assignments and duties (ATV, PWC, JBP, camps, etc) as well as reducing the distance between stands and allows additional time off the stand.

I want to personally thank those of you who have helped us recruit, whether you worked at an event, found us a venue, or talked about the awesome job you had last summer to friends.



I recently received this email:

Good evening Captain Arbin,



This past fall, I applied to the United States Naval Academy. On the morning of St. Patrick's Day, the Academy reached out with their decision and offered me an appointment. I am ecstatic to begin this journey, but it means I will be unable to return to OCBP this summer. It has been an honor and a privilege to be a part of this family, and I will cherish the memories made and the role the Patrol has undoubtedly played in a successful application. I hope that this notice provides ample time to plan for the summer. I wish you the best of luck this season. Take care.

Sincerely,
Julia Fitzpatrick
(Crew 13)





Invitations to Return Included with Spring Newsletter

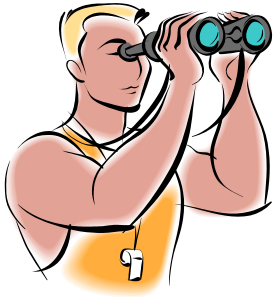
The Spring Newsletter mailing includes the official *Letters of Invitation* for returning employees and *Letters of Intent* for those who have qualified for a 2023 Surf Rescue Academy. Although, I have sent several emails asking for information through Google Docs, such as change of address and dates of availability, **responding to this mailing in writing is required** if you wish to be employed this season. Make sure that you read everything carefully, because there are several requirements for being hired or rehired. We require official confirmation of your last day of full-time work to be returned with your Employment Agreement. Employment agreements, *Letters of Intent*, and **proof of last day**, must be returned to Captain Arbin at his La Plata, Maryland address using the enclosed, pre-addressed stamped envelope by Thursday, April 27, 2023. If your signed employment agreement is not received by the due date, you may not be offered employment this season or will not be able to request a specific assignment. We have an impressive group of rookies who are fully qualified, and several “B” rated SRTs who are seeking a chance to return, and I need to let these people know ASAP whether they have a position or not. Additionally, more than 60 candidates are registered for upcoming Pre- Employment Physical Skills Evaluations and more continue to register daily, including several past employees who missed a year or two, and I need to determine how many openings we will have. We have also held interviews with several outstanding candidates for Surf Beach Facilitator positions and only employ nine each season. Do not let any of them take your position because you didn’t bother to reply to this mailing. Please take the time to complete all paperwork accurately and be aware that your **availability will have an impact** on our ability to hire you this season. If you are interested in applying for a part-time position, or requesting a particular stand, you must indicate this by the April 27th due date. Once your agreement is received, a second packet will be mailed to first-time employees including information based on your responses to the first mailing, returning employees will receive additional information by email and a link to schedule your check-in, drug test and equipment pick-up. Also included with the second mailing or email will be directions to access and complete employment forms. Only employees who did not work last season will be required to complete the Town of Ocean City application. All required forms will be available on-line and must be completed before reporting for registration and equipment issue.

REMINDER: Invitations are only sent to those employees who received a summative rating of “A” by the ratings review committee and the lieutenants and responded to the February Google form by March 1st. Failure to receive an invitation does not mean that you will not be allowed to work in 2023, but rather places the responsibility on the employee to pursue re-employment by having a meeting or telephone conference to address the issues that resulted in their not receiving an invitation. Employees who do not receive an invitation, but who wish to return to the Beach Patrol this season, must contact Captain Arbin by email

barbin@oceancitymd.gov to begin the process of discussing the conditions for a possible return. This

is not a change in policy and has been explained to every employee, by me, personally.





Applicants for Assistant Crew Chief and Crew Chief

The Beach Patrol solicited applicants for Surf Rescue Technicians with Ocean City Beach Patrol Surf Rescue Association (OCBPSRA) SRT II, SRT III and Instructor certification who indicated a desire to apply for management roles as Assistant Crew Chiefs and Crew Chiefs.

It is our intent to appoint Assistant Crew Chiefs and promote Crew Chiefs prior to the start of the 2023 season. On Saturday, April 29, 2023 the selection committee will meet to review all applicants for the positions and to review each person's employment history and performance before making recommendations to the Captain. The position requires the appointed Surf Rescue Technician to switch crews if necessary, and to assume all the responsibilities of the Assistant Crew Chief or Crew Chief position. Unwillingness to switch crews can certainly impact this opportunity. All Assistant Crew Chiefs and first and second-year Crew Chiefs will also be required to attend a training session. It is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, May 25, 2023, and will include quad training, part 1 (first time quad certification), and quad re-certification for anyone who wishes to re-certify from 2022.

Assistant Crew Chief

Serving successfully as an Assistant Crew Chief for a season is a requirement of OCBPSRA SRT III certification, which itself is a prerequisite for the Crew Chief position. The Assistant position provides the candidate pool from which future Crew Chief promotions are made.

There are nineteen positions each season, and it is my desire to fill those slots with nineteen first-time Assistant Crew Chiefs, whenever possible. However, if we do not have nineteen qualified, first-time candidates, we will choose former assistants that have applied.

Assistant Crew Chiefs will be compensated at the rate of \$19.00 per hour (2023 rate). Each position will be filled by appointing an SRT I to the rank of SRT II - Assistant Crew Chief with all the responsibility and accountability that the position carries. An additional requirement for all ACCs again in 2023 is the completion of Mobile Rescue Unit (quad) certification and the ability to work two AM (8:00 – 10:00) or PM (5:30 – 8:00) extended patrol shifts per two-week schedule. This is a training position and is designed to be a one-season appointment. In the following season, candidates who are not promoted to Crew Chief will be returned to the position on the pay scale where they would have been had they not been an Assistant Crew Chief (\$18.44 or \$18.81), but with full

credit for days worked at the Assistant Crew Chief position.

Although not required, a letter of interest will be included with your file, if submitted. A selection committee will review all candidates on Saturday, April 29, 2023, and make recommendations for this training position. Appointed candidates will be notified as soon as the selections are finalized.

Crew assignments are based on the needs of the Patrol and may require you to relocate from an area you have served in for several years. The selection committee does take into account your requests for crew assignments. An ACC with early and late season availability may be assigned to a crew with a Crew Chief who arrives later due to career responsibilities and whose late season availability only includes weekends. Just remember that the ACC training position is a required step before your first promotion to Crew Chief.

NOTE: If you have not completed OCBPSRA SRT II certification because you are only lacking the 100 days after completing probation, you may apply. If you are more than 30 days away from the required 100 days or are missing any other requirements, including the additional NIMS courses which were due by December 31st, your name will not be forwarded to the selection committee.

Crew Chief

I am anticipating seven Crew Chief openings for the 2023 season, with 26 qualified (SRT III) candidates. If you have indicated that you are interested in being considered for a promotion to Crew Chief, you have already received information on the promotion and selection process. In addition, all Crew Chief candidates will also be included in the ACC candidate pool. Crew Chiefs will be compensated at a rate of \$20.55 / hr.



Mobile Rescue Operator – Re-certification or New certification

An updated driving record is required each season for any Beach Patrol employee who will be operating any of our vehicles. I must have an updated driving record on file before May 15th 2023.



Previously certified Mobile Rescue Unit (quad) or Beach Patrol vehicle operators, who possess a current Maryland driver's license, will have a copy of your driving record requested for you at no cost. However, I do not have access to driving records for other states, so you must provide those at your expense.

As of last season (2022), I now have access to both certified and non-certified Maryland driving records. If you are a Maryland resident and poses a Maryland driver's license you may request a copy of your driving record by e-mailing me. Remember you must make the request.

However, if you do not have a Maryland driver's license and you plan to become certified as a Mobile Rescue Unit (quad) operator for the first time (new ACCs) or wish to renew your ATV certification this season, you need to obtain a current non-certified or certified complete driving record from the Department of Motor Vehicles (MVA) from the state that issued your driver's license. You may e-mail the driving record to Captain Arbin or mail it along with your returning paperwork in April, but we need it by May 15th. Newly trained Mobile Rescue Unit operators will need a copy of your driving record prior to becoming certified.



The Nevada Department of Transportation has put together a portal page where you can access DMV links for all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

https://dmvnev.com/50_state_dmv_list.html

Note: Current certification as a Mobile Rescue Unit operator is required for all Crew Chiefs and Assistant Crew Chiefs which includes a valid driver's license. SRTs who are not Crew Chiefs or Assistant Crew Chiefs are not required to certify or re-certify, however, once certified you may remain current by re-certifying on a yearly basis. All new and returning ACCs must become Mobile Rescue Unit operators, certified this season and must present a copy of your driving record prior to May 15th. First time certification is a two-step process: Step one is attending an OCBPSRA classroom and skill training course (1st training is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2023); Step two is being scheduled for a full day ride along with an OCBPSRA ATV instructor. Any employee trained as an SRT who is Mobile Rescue Unit operator certified, must

agree to be available to work two AM (8:00 – 10:00) or PM (5:30 – 8:00) extended patrol shifts per two-week schedule.

Updates to Our Official Website



I Want to... Government Resident Visitor Business Departments News & Media



Home

OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

spring 2022 Draft.pdf

100 Talbot Street - Ocean City, MD

In the past few months, we have made several changes to the look of our official Beach Patrol website. But it started last summer when we introduced the JoinBeachPatrol.com address, which takes people directly to information on employment. Not only are we using this new URL on all recruiting materials, but Ward has added it to all of our vehicles. With an emphasis on recruiting for both SRTs and SBFs we felt we needed to make locating information as easy as possible on our website. It starts with the main page and the top banner that now links directly to our employment page. Once on the employment landing page you will see very noticeable buttons linked to additional information and registrations for Beach Patrol jobs. A first-time addition is information on the Surf Beach facilitator position and how to apply. When designing the SBF page it became apparent that we had no information on surfing beaches on our site, so that was also added. This would not have all been possible without the work of Kristin Joson and the Town's Web Master, Bill Funkhouser.



Incentives

Signing Bonus = \$250.00

This incentive is available to anyone who did not work during the 2022 season. To qualify a new employee must complete a full one-week schedule in a crew. For a past employee who did not work in 2022 (Fast Track Back) if you are returning full-time you will receive the bonus after you have completed a full one-week schedule in a crew. However, if you are planning to return on a part-time basis you will receive your bonus once you complete twenty days working.



Rental Housing Stipend = \$250.00

This stipend was created to assist with the increasing cost of seasonal housing. This stipend is only available for anyone who is renting for the season. To qualify you must provide an official real estate lease that shows that you have relocated for the season. Those who own property or are living with someone and not paying rent will not qualify. Those people who are participating in the "Rental assistance Program" will not be required to provide a copy of your lease. To receive the "Rental Housing Stipend" you must work a total of 400 hours including special duties and AM and PM patrols)

Returning Travel Stipend = \$140.00 per trip

Beginning the third full week in August, we rapidly lose our staff to other obligations but must continue providing coverage along all of Ocean City's beaches. By integrating the employees who have committed to return, the Beach Patrol can give the remaining full-time employees their days off and allows us to utilize those employees on days when they are available. The travel stipend offsets the true cost of returning to Ocean City to work after you have moved away from the area. To receive the travel stipend, you must travel from 110 miles or more, from Ocean City and work at least two days each trip.

Appreciation Bonus = \$1.00 per hour

Beginning in the third full week in August, we rapidly lose staff to other obligations but must continue providing coverage along all of Ocean City's beaches. By encouraging SRTs and SBFs to continue working full-time or return on a part-time basis once they leave full-time employment with the Beach Patrol during our critical coverage window at the end of our season, we can provide the maximum coverage later into our season. Any hours worked after August 13th will be credited to a \$1.00/hour bonus that will be paid at the end of the season.

SRT Zach Newman has taken advantage of the incentive programs that have been offered. Ask him how he found success in the program. Zach was last season's recruiter of the year for not only having more people actually show up and test but he made all of the arrangements to have a recruiting team on campus at the University of Maryland. He also took advantage of the "Recruiting Bounty" once it was announced and earned \$1,000.00.



Be Ready to Perform All Aspects of the SRT Position – It's Your Responsibility

Whenever you return to the beach to begin the season, you must be ready to perform all aspects of your duties from day one. In 2012 we made 156 rescues Memorial Day weekend. This includes not only the skills that you have been trained to perform (CPR, Neck-back, search and recovery, etc.) but, most importantly, that you arrive in top physical condition. Although rookies will have to prove their fitness from the first day of Surf Rescue Academy, returning SRTs will not be evaluated physically until Veteran Re-qualification/Re-certification. However, everyone must be physically ready as soon as you take the stand. Thanks to SRT Everett Brown you can also warm up your semaphore skills and see how you rank against other SRTs using the site he has developed <https://www.beachsemaphore.com/>

Requalification and Recertification are yearly responsibilities for all Beach Patrol employees depending on your job description. For those of you who are returning for your third year or more, you have been through this before. However, for anyone who was a rookie last season this will be a new experience.

Requalification is required of all personnel who are primarily assigned to a stand. This includes PSRTs through Crew Chiefs. Requalification requires meeting the minimum physical performance standard for both running and swimming. Rookies will re-qualify on the Saturday morning at the end of their Surf Rescue Academy, this is our assurance that, although you have already passed our test, you maintained your conditioning and skill level since you successfully passed all aspects of the Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation. In some cases,

this will be the first time that we have evaluated your running and swimming skills on the sand and in the ocean, although we would not have appointed you to SRA unless we had total confidence that your skills at an off-site test would transfer to the environment that we work in.

Crew Chiefs re-qualify on Saturday, June 24, 2023, just prior to SRA II's re-qualification. By having Crew Chiefs re-qualify separately from the regular SRTs, that will allow them to act as safety officers and instructors during the regular SRTs' Veteran Re-cert. We will also hold a separate Assistant Crew Chief Re-certification on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, so we can concentrate on topics that are pertinent to that specific position and the duties required. All Assistant Crew Chiefs are also required to attend training on Thursday, May 25th, which includes "Mobile Rescue Unit" driver training and re-certification. Re-certification is the reviewing, updating, practicing, and perfecting of all the skills required to perform your duties. Each year we emphasize some new skills while practicing those skills that we know are going to be necessary in the performance of your job. We will update and re-emphasize Beach Patrol policies, procedures, and skills with the assistance of Crew Chief instructors. Skills such as neck/back stabilization and extrication, search and recovery as well as "rips, rocks and rescues" are always part of the day and we will re-visit other job critical skills. We also update CPR and First Aid certifications on an alternating, yearly basis to assure that all employees are currently certified in both. This summer will be a First Aid / Stop the Bleed review and a CPR/AED re-certification year.

The dates that have been established for this year's Veteran Re-certification are Wednesday, June 28th – July 1st and July 5th – 8th with Saturday, July 8th as our Patrol group picture and Captain Craig Swim Day. These dates are very important if you are considering applying to work part-time this summer. You must agree to be available for a Requalification and Recertification Day or you will not be considered.

Failing to re-qualify or re-certify are grounds for immediate suspension with possible termination and you will no longer be considered a current employee, which would mean starting over by passing a full test in a subsequent season. There is no reason or excuse not to be ready to perform the physical skills required of your position. This is usually not an issue, but you must train early and train hard.

SPECIAL NOTE TO RETURNING SRTs:

If you failed to re-qualify last season on your first attempt, although you did re-qualify on a subsequent attempt, you will not be placed on payroll or be allowed to start work until you have successfully requalified. This is also why you did not receive an invitation to return. Each person who this affects was sent a personal letter offering them a chance to requalify at one of our off-site PEPSEs. The next opportunity for you to requalify before the start of our season will be at the Ocean Pines PEPSE on Sunday, April 30th, which allows you to check-in with all other returning SRTs. The first chance during the season will

be, Saturday, May 27, 2023, at 10:00, along with SRA I. If you are not available, or are unsuccessful, you will not be hired but may re-attempt re-qualifying on Saturday, June 3, 2023, during our final PEPSE for 2023.

SPECIAL NOTE TO ROOKIES: DO NOT show up out of shape if you want to work for the Beach Patrol this season. You passed the test and were offered an appointment to a Surf Rescue Academy, now it is time to increase your training program, so you are ready for the challenges of working as a Surf Rescue Technician. Be ready both physically and mentally for long, exhausting days and nights. We will be emphasizing the physical challenges of performing all aspects of being a Surf Rescue Technician during your Surf Rescue Academy... BE READY!!! We have a stand waiting for you!!!



Being and Remaining Drug Free is the Expectation

Passing the annual pre-employment drug test is not a goal for each of us, but rather an expectation of the Town of Ocean City and the Beach Patrol. The purpose of this activity is to assure that each of us is drug free, and, more importantly, that we remain drug free. Recent changes in various state laws throughout our country have led to a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding about the use of marijuana. Let me be totally clear about the Town of Ocean City and the Beach Patrol's position on this: Any use of marijuana or one of its derivatives will disqualify you from employment with the Town of Ocean City. Whether the marijuana has been "prescribed" for medical use or is being used as a recreational drug it will be reported as a failed drug screening, resulting in termination, and may impact your future career opportunities.

You must also be aware that any performance enhancing supplements or recovery products that you may purchase legally that contain derivatives such as CBD (Cannabidiol) and THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), which can show up positive on a drug test, will also be reported as a failed drug test and will result in termination. If you fail the drug screening, the only option is for you to pay to have the same original sample re-tested. You will not be given the opportunity to provide a fresh sample. A copy of a memo from Katie Callan, HR Director; and Chris Parks, Risk Manager, has been included with this mailing and is part of the policy page which you are required to sign prior to employment.

Important – Maintain Current Contact Information and Check it Frequently



The Beach Patrol needs to communicate in a fast and efficient way to keep everyone informed of important dates, deadlines and other information. However, each time I send out a group of emails, I have several returned, primarily because the account has not been maintained and is now dead. Although I am unable to send attachments with a text message, I will also send the body of the e-mail message to your cell phone that we have on file. To avoid the problem of undeliverable messages, please make sure that you are keeping the Beach Patrol informed of any changes to your preferred email account as well as your mailing address and both your current cell phone number and the carrier that you are using (Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile, etc.). Text messages are sent through e-mail so having the correct cell carrier is critical. You must make it a priority to check the account as well as your spam folder and place the Beach Patrol e-mail address on your safe list. Often what has happened is, you provide a college e-mail address that was issued by your university and then, when you are no longer a student, it is closed and the first indication that the Beach Patrol has is a returned, undeliverable e-mail. This past fall I sent out several e-mails and text messages to both verify your OCBPSRA certifications and to verify contact information. As a result of multiple non-responses, many accounts were tagged as “Bad” and the January “Ratings Document” was not sent. I would suggest that you create a private e-mail account that uses your name and is professional sounding. You would not believe some of the e-mail addresses I receive from potential employees. Often this very inappropriate address is the first glimpse I have of this person asking the Beach Patrol to consider them for a job. If you are a Crew Chief or above you have a Town of Ocean City issued e-mail account and I suggest that you maintain it so it does not close and that you check it often. If you would like to provide a different e-mail address than the one we have been given by you, please e-mail the new address to the Beach Patrol.

Note: You can expect several e-mails following this mailing. Once I receive your returned paperwork and have entered all the information into the database, I will generate an e-mail that confirms the information as well as lets you know if anything else is needed. Following the April 27th deadline for returning the mailing, I will send an e-mail with important employee registration information with links to required documents and a request for scheduling your check-in. Some of the messages require action by you. Please check your e-mail and texts regularly.



Surf Rescue Academy submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

Crew Chiefs: We look forward to having you serve as instructors for both Surf Rescue Academy classes scheduled for 2023. Please be prepared to provide accurate information about your availability for both the May and June classes. We will begin scheduling instructors as soon as we verify the dates you send us.



PSRTs: May 21 is the first day of our first Surf Rescue Academy for 2023, and it is less than two months away. If you are a Probationary Surf Rescue Technician (PSRT) assigned to one of the two academy classes, you must be sure to report in top physical condition and be ready to work hard each day. There is a lot to do and learn in a short amount of time. There will be indoor classroom sessions, but there will also be in-water sessions each day. Please bring a positive attitude and be ready to listen to the instructors and follow directions. Academy is not a competition; it requires cooperation between PSRTs and also with instructors. You will probably make friends that you will have for the rest of your life in that week as you work together to be successful.



Testing and Recruiting

The True Numbers from the Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee



Over the past eight months, the beach patrol has recruited, registered, welcomed, and evaluated candidates who seek to become Surf Rescue Technicians for the summer of 2023. As other articles in this edition have shared, the quality of those appointed to Surf Rescue academy is very high, but the overall numbers are off from previous years. It wasn't long ago that we would have upwards of 300 people sign up to test, 150 would actually show up and 50 would pass. This year's campaign is actually running stronger percentage-wise of those passing but the Beach Patrol is behind on registrations citing the national trend catching up to our Town. It's not too late. We can all do our part and share the experiences and fun we have living and working at the beach. Share some stories of your best (and worst) rescue. Let your friends know how much the beach patrol has assisted you in life and about all the other friends you have made. Talk about the competition opportunities and the ATVs, Watercraft, and Camps.

Our push towards the Ocean Pines Test and the one in the ocean on June 3rd will be the focus of these remaining weeks of recruiting. There are still places to stay at the Tarry and in a couple of units Lt. Kovacs has rented for the summer in anticipation of new hires needing a place to stay. The Recruiting Bounty is still in effect (even for new hires once they pass the test) and be sure to share that anyone passing the test and making it to the beach

after academy earns a \$250 signing bonus in addition to the hourly rate.

Thank you all for everything you are doing.



Lt. Lee, SRT Harrison Duncan and CC Katie Greiser at the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Job Fair hosted by the Princess Royale.

HydroFlasks
submitted by:
Lt. Skip Lee



In addition to the \$500 Bounty, the Beach Patrol is still awarding Hydro-Flasks for every current employee who has a candidate use their name on the "How did you hear about the Beach Patrol" question at the PEPSE. Have you received yours yet? If you recruit someone and they come to the test (not pass but just show up) you get a flask. For off-season PEPSEs, the flasks will be available when you report for duty this spring. Color options are limited, and the high-quality container is still a fan favorite. Just one more way for the Town to express its appreciation for everything you are doing to bring great people here to work with you. Thanks!



INFORMATION



Documentation of “Last Day Working” Requirements!

submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone

It is important, whether you are a first time Beach Patrol employee or are re-turning for your tenth year, that you provide official documentation of your last full-time day of working, along with the required paperwork by Thursday, April 27th, 2023. Examples of this would be a school calendar, letter of employment, travel documents, VISA termination date, etc. (not a letter from your mom). This documentation must be returned along with your employment agreement (**by Thursday, April 27th, 2023**) to be processed for employment this season. This information is critical as we make decisions about who we employ and how many potential openings may still exist for our April 30th and June 3rd Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations (PEPSE). If an SRT has limited availability, then we may have to offer one of those positions to someone who can offer the most availability which fits the needs of the Beach Patrol. We are also looking for committed employees who make the greatest effort, and in some cases, **the biggest sacrifice to serve the organization**. This policy has been used successfully for several years with all personnel who have applied for a part-time position. We have required each applicant for part-time to commit to working a minimum number of days during our time of greatest need (“critical coverage” after August 14th), when the Beach Patrol starts to see a decrease in the number of full-time personnel. If you have ever guarded during the end of August or in September (Fall Guarding/Patrol), then you appreciate our objective to keep the maximum number of stands on the beach as long into our season as possible. Having the SRT next to you 300 yards away, rather than 500 yards, is much more comforting and adds to maintaining a safe beach/ocean environment for our visitors.

Another example of how we try and meet this objective has to do with the way we administer our final Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation

each season. We try to target candidates with late season availability. For the June 3rd test, we will require each candidate to complete a form that indicates how late into our season they will be available. If we have more candidates pass all phases of the testing than we have available openings, then we will choose the candidate(s) who have the greatest availability.

It is my responsibility to assure that the Beach Patrol is fulfilling its mission of keeping everyone safe on the beaches in Ocean City. To do this we need to be adequately staffed throughout the season. The Beach Patrol budget fully supports our mission and provides the funding to fill all positions. However, if we hire or re-hire someone who can only work from July 3rd through August 2nd, we are choosing them over another person who may have greater availability through late September. We want to hire personnel that fit our needs and it is fiscally irresponsible to over-hire by letting a PT employee work just a few days to stay current!

In short, we are asking each employee to give the Beach Patrol as many days of work as they can.



New Housing Opportunity for 2023

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

The past few years have seen a devastating blow to the number of affordable housing units that are available to Beach Patrol employees. While we have tried new ideas, like Rental Assistance, Rental Stipends, the Town has now al-

lowed us to pursue another new avenue. The Beach Patrol, through the Town of Ocean City, has rented a four-person unit near 9th Street. We hope to fill the unit with four employees, and using the Rental Assistance program to reimburse the town. If you or another employee that you know still needs housing, have them contact Lt. Kovacs wkovacs@oceancitymd.gov

It would be great to find a group of four friends to move in together, since it is a one-bedroom unit. You can see pictures of the apartment on the Seagate Rentals site under the 907 Philadelphia Ave. #8 address.

Captain’s Note: This is another example of an initiative

(Continued on page 12)

(Housing continued from page 11)

that takes far more time and attention than anyone realizes. Thanks to Ward and his relationships with local realtors we are hoping to remain ahead of the rental housing crisis. Our goal is that no potential employee will choose not to work in OC due to any housing concerns.

Limited Part Time Positions Available

submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone

This is the time of the year when everyone starts waiting for his or her invitation from Captain Arbin, & the OCBP, about returning for the upcoming summer season. It would be easy if everyone was able to return full-time, but that is highly unlikely!

That is where the opportunity for a part-time position comes in to play. OCBP has a limited number of part-time positions available every summer and you might be interested in one of them.

This past summer we had 29 personnel who occupied part-time slots and 41 have indicated interest in part-time for the 2023 season. We also had some personnel who occupied part-time slots until they became full-time, or vice versa (due to internships, military training, or school). Most though, were part-time for the entire summer. The number of part-time slots for this summer has not been determined and I wanted to let everyone who is interested know what is expected / required.

The first requirement is that you have been full-time prior to becoming part-time, and you must be in good standing. The second requirement, and one of the most important factors, is that you must be available for 15 – 20 days (or more) before June 18th & OR after August 20th, 2023. In addition to these two requirements, you must be available for a full day of veteran re-qualification and re-certification (those dates are available on the website calendar). If a person is only available during the middle of our season, then he or she does not fulfill the need we have for the shoulder seasons (May & September). The Beach Patrol has the highest number of full-time personnel available during the middle of the summer. It only makes sense that part-time personnel be available early and or late. If a person has good availability after mid-August, then Captain Arbin will allow me to work with that person. Each person who applies will be considered based upon his or her availability.



Paddle Board Repairs

submitted by: SRT Nick Thompson

Winter rescue board repairs are coming along nicely. Kracka rescue board straps that are fraying are being replaced with brand new ones. Knee pads that are worn are also being replaced. All rescue boards are being inspected for small and large holes and

they are being repaired so that each crew will have a usable rescue board for the start of the beach season. Here is a picture of 16-02 with new straps and knee pads.

Captain's Note: Nick is working very hard to make sure all rescue boards are in working condition by the start of the season. However, if each of us is diligent about caring for all of our equipment we will not need to repair or replace items as often. Care of our rescue boards is a priority and that is why we are installing storage boxes along the beach, which will reduce the amount of transporting that needs to occur.



Good News on the Beach Patrol Vehicle Fleet

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

For several years, the Town of Ocean City, like everyone else has struggled to purchase new vehicles due to supply chain problems and micro chip shortages. As a division that relies on hand-me-down vehicles from other departments, this meant that our older fleet was not replaced at the usual rate, and our trucks got older and less reliable. Two were condemned in recent years without being replaced. The good news is that those vehicles have now been replaced, while they are not the mid-sized SUVs that we hoped for, some have much less mileage than the trucks we had been getting. New to us this year are 5 vehicles. Replacement 605 is a Chevy pickup. While it is a 2005 model, it has fewer than 23,000 miles. 604, 628, and 607 are Ford F150s in good condition. We also had our 2005 Suburban replaced with 629, a 2016 Suburban, giving us fleet of eight trucks. We also reached a long-standing goal of having a full-size pickup for each area for the first time. Let's hope the fleet holds up well this summer!

Captain's Note: What this does not include is the tremendous amount of work that Ward has done to accomplish this. Ward has fostered such a good relationship with both the Procurement Manager Scott Wagner and the Service Center (Garage) Manager Adam Ruark, that they are working extra hard to fill our needs and to keep our fleet operational. Reaching the goal of having a full size pickup exclusively for each area has been many years in the works and was finally accomplished as a direct result of Ward's hard work.

Equipment Boxes Ready for Position this Summer

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

With the assistance of the Town's carpenters and a materials and operations budget that can fund them, the beach patrol commissioned the construction of three additional Equipment Boxes for deployment this summer. The boxes, extended a full 12 feet and constructed with roofing material and three coats of paint to weather the environment of the



beach, will be positioned at 9th street, 48th street and 109th street this spring in preparation for the summer. Each box will be able to hold up to three paddle boards, a workout buoy, and an anchor so that crews have easy access to equipment without needing to call an areas supervisor and request delivery during what normally feels like the busiest time of the day – morning.

The decision to place the boxes in these locations did not come without considerable conversation and input. Cutting down the distances between the Pier building and 27th Street Beach House, 27th Street Beach House and the Equipment Box at 70th Street, and the 70th Street Equipment Box and the 130th Street Beach House remains the main objective. Next came the need to convince the Department of Natural Resources (the owner of the Dune System in Ocean City) that what we were proposing would not negatively impact the system in any way or impede the tractors and vehicles that utilize the heavily travelled 48th street vehicle access. The 109th Street access did not pose either of those concerns. After about an hour meeting, the representatives approved the placement in locations and issued work orders to modify the fence system on those accesses to accommodate the equipment boxes. We will alert Public Works of these decisions and position the boxes in advance of the season. Special thanks to the Area Supervisors for years and years of delivering equipment to support the crews and the workout requests of their members.



Captain's Note: Although it may sometimes seem like we (the officer group) do not hear what you are requesting, that is not the case. This project has been in the works for several seasons; however, these types of ideas take not only time but an approval process that is out of our control. Thanks to 1st Lt. Lee who coordinated this effort and as a result, you will see the fruits of his labors this season.

Water Safety Partnership Educates 1000 plus fourth graders from Wicomico County Public Schools

submitted by: SRT Nick Thompson

During Spring of 2023, the Ocean City Beach Patrol has partnered with Wicomico County Public Schools and the Henson Family YMCA in Salisbury, MD. to deliver water and beach safety sessions. Lt. Kovacs, ACC Connor Lawrence, SGT Adam Payne, CC Jacob Cope, SRT Harrison Duncan and I will have worked together over four months impacting approximately one thousand and two hundred fourth grade students. We would love to have more help.

The program includes instruction in the water by YMCA/OCBP staff and beach safety sessions given by OCBP staff in the classroom. Students are educated in every aspect of the Ocean City Beach Patrol beach ordinances and hazards. We also review semaphore, coverage, scanning, and any additional tips for having an enjoyable day at the beach. By the end of the season our team will have given approximately 29 days of instruction with some days providing double sessions. We are looking forward to special needs and Adapted PE classes to visit.

The objective is to educate our youth about how to stay safe around pools and open water, especially in Ocean City, MD. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with so many amazing people from different organizations. I truly believe our efforts will prevent someone from being in a dangerous situation at the beach or in the ocean. We also give each teacher enough Ocean City Beach Patrol activity books for each class. We review Junior Beach Patrol opportunities and encourage students to tell their siblings and parents about JoinBeachPatrol.com. There is no doubt that one day some of these students will be SRTs as well.

If you would like to help provide beach safety seminars at the YMCA in April or May, please contact me at natrescu@hotmail.com

Captain's Note: Recruiting starts early! Not only are we educating these students, but are also giving a positive experience with Public Safety personnel and in turn they will remember a positive and fun day that they had with people from Ocean City.



Crew Chief Patrick Reid is part of an international team that's training the Nicaraguan Red Cross in the OCBP C-spine stabilization technique.

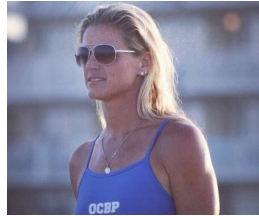
Equipment Updates

submitted by: Sgt. Coby Phillips

Happy Spring everyone! I can't believe it is that time again! As you fill out your requests for equipment this year, please be specific if there is a particular style or item you want, as this helps me when packing bags. Rookies, as you fill the eqt. form out, please do your best to fill out the sizes you need. You will have an opportunity to try things on when you check in for rookie academy on your first day. During check-in, you will be given a "rookie whistle" but will have the opportunity to purchase a fox 40 and a custom lanyard. These are recommended as they are a better option, AND we have the coolest color selection! You may ONLY purchase these by cash as we do not accept debit/credit cards. The cost is \$12, \$6 each if you only need one of the items. Part-time SRTs and rookies get a reduced amount of equipment issued. Rookies will get additional uniform and equipment issued following the re-qualification run and swim on the Saturday of your Surf Rescue Training Academy.

Additional bathing suits and headwear may be purchased during the season and there will be equipment room hours scheduled throughout the summer to facilitate dealing with any uniform or equipment concerns.

I spent a lot of time in the fall getting the equipment room organized and ready for this summer and should be able to get bags packed quickly. I look forward to seeing everyone and have a great Spring!

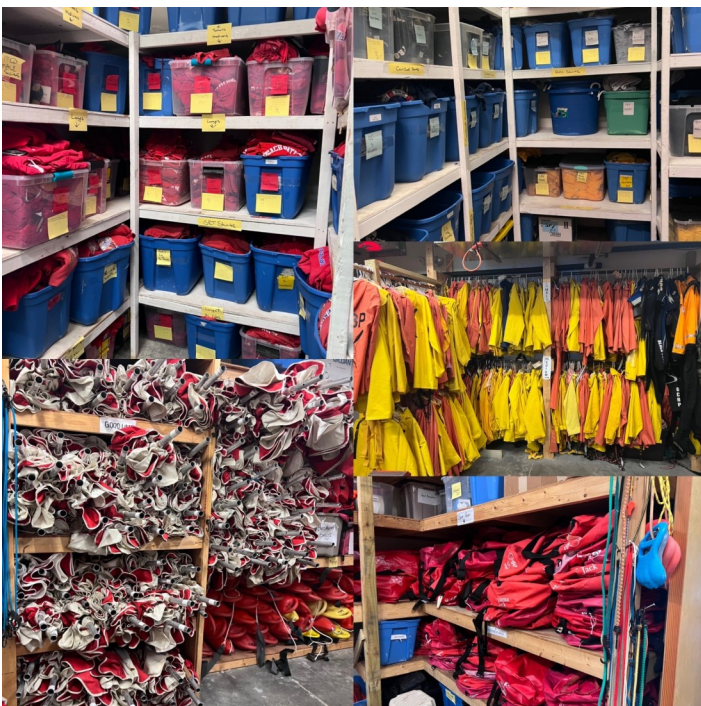


CC History – CREW 16 - (130th St.)

submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone

This is a continuation of a task I started in the Fall Newsletter (Cew 1). I had been thinking about doing this for several years and Crew 16 (130th St.) is the second attempt/crew I've been working on. I wish I had access to information for the years prior to 1984 (my first year) but after some research I've been led to believe that we started with Crews / Crew Chiefs in 1968. I will begin with 1982 (started in 1984 with Crew 1 in the last article) and add names in as I get more information. What stands out in my memory is that after passing the test in 1984, I was sent to the CC stand at Middle Inlet to sit with CC Steve Buckman on my first day for training and the next day I was sent to the CC stand at 142nd street (CC Hugh Hommel) and assigned to Crew 17 for the rest of the summer. In 1985 - I was assigned to Crew 13 (Pyramid), 1986 - Crew 6 (26th & 31st), 1987 - Crew 1 CC, 1989 & 1990 - Crew 1 CC (Dispatcher), and in 1991 thru 1993 - Crew 16 CC (130th St.). That was before the dunes were created and we could pull back to the Beach House when the weather was bad and still see the entire beach as well as go up to the roof deck for a great view looking north and south. Here is the information that I was able put together for 1982 thru 2022 (working on 1984);

1982 – Jerry Naylor
 1983 – Jerry Naylor / Dave Whigham
 1984 – TBA
 1985 – Jason Merson / Ward Kovacs
 1986 – Scott McIntyre
 1987 – Scott McIntyre
 1988 – Donna Jones
 1989 – Mark Reese
 1990 – Mark Reese
 1991 – Mike Stone
 1992 – Mike Stone
 1993 – Mike Stone
 1994 – Valerie Comegys
 1995 – Valerie Comegys
 1996 – Stacey Kennedy
 1997 – Colby Nelson
 1998 – Colby Nelson
 1999 – Tony Gardner
 2000 – Tony Gardner
 2001 – Nick Thompson
 2002 – Nick Thompson
 2003 – Nick Thompson
 2004 – Nick Thompson
 2005 – Nick Thompson
 2006 – Aly Hammond (Brabitz)
 2007 – Garrett Lee
 2008 – Garrett Lee
 2009 – Garrett Lee
 2010 – Garrett Lee



(Continued on page 16)

(CC History continued from page 15)

2011 – Garrett Lee
 2012 – Dan Pogonowski
 2013 – Dan Pogonowski / Justin Zangwill
 2014 – Kelly McGrath
 2015 – Kelly McGrath
 2016 – Kelly McGrath
 2017 – Kelly McGrath
 2018 – Dalton Warren (Added an additional

Crew)

2019 – Dan Curry
 2020 – Dan Curry
 2021 – Dan Curry
 2022 – Chris Sanders

I had some help from Ward Kovacs (Old BP yearbooks) & Tim Uebel (Crew & group pictures) in compiling this list and hope to do the same for some other crews in future newsletters. If anyone reads this article and has any additional information to share, please let me know as being accurate is important for our history, Lt. Mike Stone (& PROUD former Crew 16 CC)

PS – We had several CCs who were in Crew 16 for three or four years but GARRETT LEE & NICK THOMPSON are the leaders with **FIVE** summers each, thank you GARRETT & NICK!!

The OCBP Beach and Water Safety Coloring/Activity Book Gets a “Makeover”

Submitted by:
 Kristin Joson

The Ocean City Beach Patrol coloring/activity book was a project I decided to tackle back in

2008. We got a lot of ideas from other safety books for children that other agencies distributed, and we decided to create our own. This book is another method that we use to fulfill our three-part mission: education, prevention, and intervention. The primary reason we expanded our efforts toward reaching our youngest beach patrons and their parents was to continue to teach: "RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT and SAFETY" at the beach. We believe, an informed beach patron is a safe beach patron and if a person feels safe

and secure while they are in Ocean City, they will tell others and return for additional visits.

Back in 2008 Captain Arbin allotted money in the budget to fund the development, creation, editing, and production of the publication and we were able to secure the talents of Tammy Farmer, the artist who drew all of the original illustrations. She was actually the Accounts Receivable person in our family-owned tire business and liked to sketch as a hobby. We hired her to illustrate each page of our book. She created Bobby the Buoy and his friend Ringo. At the time Margaret Pilas was a Councilwoman and came up with the idea that Bobby needed a friend. So that is how Ringo became a part of the book. This made sense since one of our slogans is “never swim alone”. The buoyant duo now delivers safety messages throughout the coloring/activity book, and we use it each year at many of our outreach programs. The book holds more than just fun pages to color. There are activities and discussion topics for parents to work on with their children.

Then in 2018 the Ocean City Surf Club decided they liked the book so much they wanted to donate for the printing. We were very appreciative and decided that the OCSC should have a couple of pages in our book highlighting their educational and environmental initiatives. So, a new partnership developed and each year we work with the OCSC and continue our partnership.

Fast forward to 2022. We began a partnership with Hook Optics. They have been a huge support to the OCBP and provided each lifeguard in the spring of 2022 with a pair of high-quality sunglasses that filter out all the harmful rays and make for optimal vision while at the beach or on the water. Once Niki Pino (one of the owners of Hook Optics) saw our activity book her creative juices started flowing. She is also an artist and finds working with computer graphics very therapeutic. She offered to give our Coloring Book a “make over”. This was no easy task, but she assured us it was her form of relaxation. So, our Coloring/Activity book will have a brand-new look this summer. We are still working on the final edits as this newsletter is being printed. Our Beach and Water Safety Coloring/Activity book will be ready for summer 2023. I know you will be pleased with the new look. The transformation is just what we needed.

As we compare our Beach Patrol to others, one distinguishing characteristic that sets us apart is our emphasis on education. Those of us who have spent time in water safety realize the direct connection between education and prevention. Additionally, those of us who are professional educators are keenly aware that programs that target our youngest family members may have the greatest impact by preparing our children to be future ambassadors of our safety message by passing on this important information to future generations. We continue to emphasize our children’s programs such as reading days, camps, church groups, scouts, festivals, health fairs, and other opportunities for getting the beach safety message out. With a proactive education and prevention program, the need for serious interventions is greatly reduced.



OFF SEASON ACTIVITIES

All Aboard! First-ever Winterfest of Lights Train Display a Huge Success!

Submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee



Under the recommendation of Mr. Tom Perlozzo, Director of Tourism and Business Partnerships in Ocean City, what was supposed to be a Wintertime train garden in the Training Room at

Headquarters turned in to an enormous Train Extravaganza in the Welcome Center at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. The original design called for a 12' X 12" (144sq') square train centered in the training room but the garden quickly grew to an 18' diameter circle (255sq') complete with both a summer and winter scene.

Frank Miller, Special Event Coordinator for the Town, his wife Jennifer, Mike Stone, Ward Kovacs, Nick Thompson and his daughter, Jillian, were the architects of this masterpiece and took two weeks to assemble. Mathew Bredinger from Public Works also contributed time and labor to construct, deliver, and assemble the benchwork upon which the display would appear. It was definitely a team effort! What made the work even more meaningful is that Mr. Perlozzo was adamant about making sure this remained a Beach Patrol initiative and encouraged us to utilize the racks around the Welcome Center to display Beach Patrol safety messages, artifacts, and give-a-ways. It turned out to truly be an educational and entertaining campaign.

The display featured a 96" radius circular track around the perimeter of the entire garden and a divider down the center cutting the table in half and making way for the two separate themes. Frank, Jennifer, and friends took the lead on the winter scene while Skip, Mike, Nick and Jillian tackled the summer side. All of the trains, tracks, accessories, and materials came from Skip's personal

collection. The 41 days of operations were broken into 5-day groups from November 15th to December 31st with Mike taking the Wednesdays, Frank taking the Sundays, and Skip picking up the remaining Engineer responsibilities. Frank and Mike brought their personal trains to run on their respective nights and added features as the weeks progressed. Many members of the community also stepped up to be a part of the fun and added their flare to the display as well.



Adam Payne and Nick Thompson served as Conductors on occasion making themselves available to answer Beach Patrol safety questions, provide direction, and being part of the fun. When their availability lessened, Bob Wagner stepped into the Conductor role and finished out the season, never missing a night and really being the Host-with-the-Most! I'm not sure who had more fun. The people hearing Bob's stories or Bob telling them. It was awesome!

In the end, the "Proceeds to Benefit the Beach Patrol" donations amounted to much more than expected. Not only are we going to be able to sustain and support next year's Winter Train Garden initiatives, but Mike and I will be making a donation to the ULSA Chapter to support the travel expenses for the National Competition Team this August. We hope to get more Beach Patrol members involved next year. We will be hosting Guest Engineer Nights, having a Mayor's Open House night, and even the City Manager has trains from his childhood that we hope to run next year. If you have trains, want to get involved or be a part of creating the diorama, please feel free to let Mike or Skip know and we will certainly include you in the planning and production stages. Work begins October 25th and opening night is set for November 16th. All Aboard!

Captain's Note: Once again the Beach Patrol took advantage of an awesome opportunity to educate and share fellowship with residents and visitors. Events like this also give others a different perspective into who the Beach Patrol is, and the incredible people who make up our Beach Patrol family. Seeing grown men fight back tears as they talked about their own experience growing up with trains and the memories surrounding those times was wonderful. It was great knowing that our efforts had such a positive impact.

SRT Friedman is the Surf Rescue Ninja

submitted by: Kristin Joson



One of our SRTs, Andy Friedman, applied for and was selected to compete in the American Ninja Warrior tournament in Los Angeles, California as the “Surf Rescue Ninja”. His competition took place on March 17th and the Beach Patrol hosted a “Watch Party” at our headquarters from 2:00am to 5:00am to cheer him on and let him look up at the JumboTron during the event and see us supporting him. Andy also has the official support of the Town of Ocean City as required by the shows producers. Additionally, the City Manager, Terry McGean approved the use of Ocean City Beach Patrol materials (required by the producers) so Andy will be competing in his OCBP uniform. This is very exciting and something we believe is GREAT for the town.

Do you know Andy? If you have not had the good fortune of guarding with him here are a few details about him:

- Andy grew up in Laurel, Md., was on swim teams and attend Salisbury University, but never intended to join the patrol. However, a friend talked about try-

ing out and he thought it sounded challenging (recruited by a friend).

- His first year was 1996 and he left after 6 seasons in 2001.
- After graduating from Salisbury, Andy married his wife Kristin in 2002.
- Andy is 45 years old and lives in Waynesboro, PA with wife Kristin and their children, Nastassja, 18, who goes by Ollie; Peyton, 15; Nate, 12; and Micah, 9.
- He re-tested in August 2021 and attended Surf Rescue Academy in May 2022, along with a majority of 18 – 22-year old’s, and proved to everyone that he has remained in amazing shape.
- Andy is a software engineer which allows him to pursue his true passions which are, his family, youth ministry, working out and spending summers at the beach lifeguarding.
- Andy has remained in top shape and set a goal of being chosen for “American Ninja Warrior” for a second time, his first was in 2014.

Andy recognizes everything he’s been able to do as a gift from God. He says that he owes his life to Jesus and is grateful to Him. Andy credits Him with opening all kinds of doors of opportunity. Andy is an incredible representative of both the Beach Patrol and the Town of Ocean City and we are so proud of him.

LOCAL NEWS

Everyone Loves a Parade!

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

With a failed attempt to enter Ocean City’s Christmas Parade due to weather, the perseverance of Josh Wilder and a couple of local beach patrol members wouldn’t let some wind and a poor forecast deter us another time. The Beach Patrol entered the 2023 St. Patrick’s Day Parade and represented itself and the Town very well. The parade route was lined with six deep crowds (some standing in the bed of pick-up trucks) and smiles the entire way. Apparently, everyone loved our parade! Our first attempt at making an entry won us the “Honorable Mention” award in the “Motorized Unit” category. We came in second only to one of our strong supporters and partners, Jolly Roger Amusement Parks. Congratulations to the Jolly Roger group! Interestingly, another of our strongest supporters and closest partners, the Ocean City Surf Club won the “Judge’s Choice Award”. Even better, the theme that OCSC chose for their float was centered around their close connection to the Beach Patrol, and specifically, our



Junior Beach Patrol program. Featured on their float was one of the six rescue boards they donated to the Junior Beach Patrol.

A path of six vehicles, the new-to-us 605, a Jet Ski, and four ATVs completed our entry. With a driver leading the way, Debi Tyler was the BP Princess waving to the crowds and handing out activity books to every kid who lined the route from 59th Street to 44th street on south-bound Coastal Highway. Following her was Jess Pickett and Ryan Boroughs waving to parade on-lookers. Josh Wilder lead the Quad Brigade of Adam Payne, Katie Greiser, and Ward Kovacs each having a rider who would frequently stop in the parade route and hand out activity books to those kids who Debi missed. In all, we handed out 400 books and could have done more.

After the parade ended and we were back at "The Yard" returning the equipment, the ideas for the next parade started flowing and some really great ideas surfaced. We'll see where this takes us and hopefully, we'll have more drivers and more participants in the future. Have an idea for awareness and exposure of the Beach Patrol safety message, please share it with your area supervisors and let's see where it takes us!

Captain's Note: Just one more fantastic opportunity to show the public that the Beach Patrol doesn't go into hibernation during the winter, but rather continues our mission of public education. The efforts of this group of dedicated Beach Patrol employees received an "Honorable Mention" for our participation in the parade.



Salty Scoop

submitted by: Kristy Sulin

I would like to thank each one of you for all of your ideas and contributions to the Weekly Bulletin for the 2022 season. Thank you for making my first season as an employee of the Beach Patrol a rewarding and fun summer. Captain has informed me that I have signed up for life, and that is absolutely fine with me!

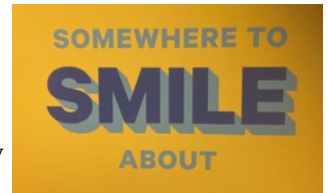
As the summer season began to wind down in the fall, the Town of Ocean City announced the return of an internal employee newsletter. In October, The City Manager brought the idea to fruition, to foster a positive working environment within Ocean City. The newsletter is a way to bring together a form of communication that empowers and inspires all employees. The "Salty Scoop", launched its premier edition in November of 2022. The goal of the newsletter is to highlight accomplishments, acknowledge achievements and honor the employees that keep Ocean City safe, clean, and fun every day. The Beach Patrol contributes an article and a supporting

photo to the newsletter every month in a section called, View from the Stand. So far, I have written articles that have discussed OCBP summer stats, Employee Demographics, Surf Beach, JBP, PEPSE, and SRA. Future articles will discuss Leadership Structure and Leadership Training. The articles are featured on the front page of the newsletter and have been well received by the town. As we continue to contribute to the newsletter, I welcome you to send me any ideas that you may have or would like me to showcase throughout the year. All article submissions are due by the 20th of each month to be published in the next month's newsletter. Thank you again for welcoming me into the Beach Patrol family and I am looking forward a great 2023 season!

Captain's Note: This is the perfect opportunity to showcase the many aspects of the Beach Patrol division and inform other Town employees about who and what the Beach Patrol is and does. Most people only know that we sit on big white stands during the summer, but don't know much about the inner works. I also want to thank Kristy for all that she has brought to the Patrol.

Ocean City's New Brand!

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee



With spring comes a new day in the marketing of Ocean

City to the world and while some locals seem to think there is something left to be desired, early data reveals the brand is effective in calling on past experiences from Ocean City and bringing thoughts of joy to mind. Being reminded of these experiences will drive tourists to Town and that is why we are here. Yes, "Somewhere to Smile About" is the new tag line for the Town of Ocean City complete with a winky smiley face and vibrant yellow and royal blue colors. Tourism Director and new Marketing firm BVK spent a year conducting research and analysis from across the eastern seaboard seeking to nail home the advantages of vacationing in Ocean City, Maryland. It was from that research and focus groups and anecdotal evidence that the firm and the Town landed on the new pitch. It was the firm's observation that whenever someone being interviewed away from Ocean City started to recall the fun they had in Ocean City, it inevitably brought a Smile to their Faces, and thus, the tagline was born. A sneak-peek of sorts was had in November and received mixed reviews. Over the past several months, the brand has appeared at Ravens games,



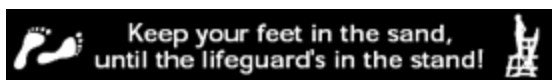
University of Maryland sporting events and as far north as Time Square for New Years Eve. The Big Reveal is set for later this spring with an entire campaign unfolding soon thereafter. So, for now, meet the new Rodney. Its sure to put a smile on your face just thinking about it.

OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

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For correspondence please
send to:
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PO box 158
Ocean City, MD 21843
Attention: Beach Patrol

Email: barbin@oceancitymd.gov



We're on the Web
www.ococean.com/OCBP

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Important, Important!!!!

In order to ensure your W2 and your tax refund get to you, contact City Hall with any corrections on your permanent address.

Also contact Debi if your phone number, mailing address or email address changes. DebiOCBP@aol.com

Do You Want OCBP License Plates?

If you do, you must complete the following:

- Obtain an application by requesting one
- Complete the application form with vehicle information and owner information
- Sign the application and send a check for \$50.00 back to Headquarters



The mission of the Ocean City Beach Patrol is to provide for the safety and well-being of the beach patrons of the Town of Ocean City, Maryland, who participate in beach and ocean-related activities. This mission includes **educating** the public, **preventing** potential accidents, and **intervening** when necessary and appropriate, both on the beach and in the adjacent Atlantic Ocean waters. The Patrol intends to fulfill its mission by:

- Recruiting the most highly qualified candidates.
- Employing qualified individuals for administrative and educational positions, competent surf rescue technicians, and public-minded surfing beach facilitators.
- Training personnel with the most current information, technology and equipment.
- Outfitting personnel with current, well-maintained, and appropriate equipment.
- Upholding the highest standards of professionalism; to present knowledgeable, capable, and reliable Surf Rescue Technicians to the general public.

Calendar/Important Dates

April 27 (Thurs) - Employee Agreements due back with request for assignment and documentation of last day.

April 27 (Thurs) 9:00 – 1:00 Steven Decatur HS Job Fair

April 29 (Sat) - Officer mandatory mtg (ACC appointments and CC Promotions)

April 30 (Sun) - PEPSE (Final off-site test) Ocean Pines (registration 9:00 - 9:45)

May 15 (Mon) – Nat. Aquarium - Marine Mammal Training 6:00-7:00 pm OCBP HQ

May 20 – Anne Arundel County's National water safety Day

May 15 – 19 - Officer and CC Drug testing (Forms sent by E-Mail)

May 20-21 (Sat-Sun) – Officer Work weekend, CC paperwork /check-in (no drug test on Sat)

May 21 (Sun) – Officer and CC Drug testing (9:00 – 10:30)

May 21 (Sun) – SRA I check-in (Drug test, paperwork, equipment, orientation)

May 22 - 28 (Mon) – May 30 (Sunday) – Surf Rescue Academy I

May 23 (Tues) – May 26 (Fri) – Returning Staff Drug Test and paperwork check-in and equipment pick-up (Time slot will be scheduled)

May 25 (Thurs) – CC and ACC leadership seminar – **Mobile Rescue Unit (ATV) certification and recertification (After 3:00 PM)**

May 27 (Sat) - 7:00 am Prayer Service, 8:00 am leadership meeting, 10:00 am first day guarding

May 29 (Memorial Day) – 8:00 am Weekly In-Service MTG, Convention Center

June 3 (Sat) - PEPSE (final scheduled for 2023) Ocean City (registration 9:00 - 9:45)

June 18 (Sun) – June 25 (Sunday) – Surf Rescue Academy II

June 27—July 8 (Tues – Sat) – Veteran re-qualification and re-certification

July 8 (Sat) – 7:00 AM - Annual Group Picture Day

July 8 (Sat) – 6:30 PM - 29th Annual Captain Robert Craig Mile Swim